

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01986 131906 Z

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1986

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PINT IT

SUBJECT: CURRENT POLITICAL VIEWS OF AMINTORE FANFANI

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FANFANI MARCH 13 TO RENEW OLD ACQUAINTANCE IN NEW ROLE AS AMBASSADOR. AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATED FANFANI ON HIS HERCULEAN AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN MAY 1972. FANFANI SAID IT WAS MERELY HIS DUTY AND REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS BELIEF IN THE ITALIAN NATION, DEMOCRACY, AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY. HE WELCOMED THE AMBASSADOR, SAYING THAT ALL ITALY IS GRATEFUL TO THE PRESIDENT FOR APPOINTING JOHN VOLPE AMBASSADOR TO ITALY. THIS APPOINTMENT IS INTERPRETED, SAID FANFANI, AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF THE GREAT INTEREST AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH THE PRESIDENT SHOWS ITALY. THE AMBASSADOR AND FANFANI ALSO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON PROBLEMS OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN ITALY. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED FANFANI'S INTEREST AND EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. FANFANI ACKNOWLEDGED THIS INTEREST AND SAID HE CONSIDERS IT OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO AWAKEN ITALY TO THE DANGER TO THE ECOLOGY AND THE URGENCY OF THE PROBLEM.

2. AS THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO ITALIAN DOMESTIC POLITICS, FANFANI ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE COULD AT ALL TIMES BE FRANK AND HE HOPED THAT THEIR EXCHANGES WOULD ALWAYS BE SO. THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OCCASION TO ASK FANFANI WHAT HIS VIEWS WERE ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DC AND THE PSI FOR A RENEWED CENTER- LEFT IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. FANFANI RESPONDED WITH THE FRANKNESS THAT HE HAD VOLUNTEERED.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 01986 131906 Z

3. FANFANI SAID THAT ITALY WAS ONLY SAVED BY A HAIR IN MAY 1972 BY THE SUCCESSFUL DC CAMPAIGN WHICH PERMITTED AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE CENTER- LEFT. HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT CENTER GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS A GOOD FORMULA AND THAT HE PERSONALLY HOPES THAT A CENTRIST GOVERNMENT CAN BE MAINTAINED. WITH REGARD TO HIS RECENT CALL FOR A DIALOGUE WITH THE PSI, HE SAID THAT A MAJOR PURPOSE IS TO PARRY CRITICISM OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WHICH WOULD BE INEVITABLE WERE IT TO APPEAR THAT THE DC REJECTS DIALOGUE WITH THE PSI. IN FACT, FANFANI SAID, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PSI IS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE GUARANTEES WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ANY RENEWED CENTER- LEFT. (COMMENT: THE MINIMUM GUARANTEES GENERALLY ADVANCED BY THE DC AND ITERATED INTER ALIA BY MORO INCLUDE DEMONSTRATION BY POLITICAL ACTIONS: (A) THAT THE PSI IS DIFFERENT FROM AND INDEPENDENT OF THE COMMUNISTS AND (B) THAT THE PSI IS PREPARED TO ADOPT A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY AS A GOVERNING PARTY, WITHOUT THE AMBIVALENCE SHOWN BY THE PSI DURING THE PREVIOUS CENTER- LEFT). FANFANI SAID THAT THE PSI IS EVEN MORE DIVIDED THAN THE DC; A PROBLEM WHICH THE PSI THEMSELVES WILL HAVE TO SOLVE BEFORE ANYONE WITHIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY CAN SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY TO THE MINIMUM CONDITIONS THEY MUST OFFER IN ORDER TO RETURN TO GOVERNMENT. FANFANI WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE TEN- YEAR EXPERIENCE OF THE CENTER- LEFT WAS NOT A PARTICULAR SUCCESS AND IN THIS REGARD HE ACCEPTED HIS SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPERIENCE. IT WAS IN THE LIGHT OF THIS EXPERIENCE THAT FANFANI SAID THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF THE CENTRIST FORMULA CAN BE MAINTAINED. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THE PSI HAD OFFICIALLY WELCOMED THE GAINS OF THE UNIFIED LEFT IN FRANCE AND FANFANI SEIZED THE THOUGHT SAYING " EXACTLY* AND IS THAT THE SORT OF DEVELOPMENT THAT WE WOULD WANT IN ITALY? CERTAINLY NOT."

4. FANFANI THEN TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF THE CISL CONGRESS TO BE HELD SHORTLY AFTER THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT CONGRESS IN JUNE. HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN THAT THE UNIFICATION POLICIES OF BRUNO STORTI WOULD PREVAIL. ON THE OTHER HAND HE STATED THAT THE POSITION OF SCALIA AS IT HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS IS ONE WHICH CAN BE SUPPORTED. FANFANI OBSERVED THAT THE AFL- CIO HAS HELPED THE ITALIAN LABOR MOVEMENT BEFORE AND HE HOPED THE AFL- CIO COULD BE ENCOURAGED ONCE AGAIN TO ADVANCE ITALIAN AND US INTERESTS BY SUPPORTING SCALIA'S FIGHT AGAINST UNIFICATION. FANFANI SAID THAT A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION WITHIN

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PAGE 03 ROME 01986 131906 Z

THE CISL IS OF MUCH MORE IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF ITALY THAN
THE OUTCOME OF THE DC CONGRESS. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED TO
FANFANI THAT HE WOULD GIVE THIS HIS FURTHER ATTENTION, AND THAT
WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE U. S. THIS APRIL HE MIGHT HAVE AN OCCASION
TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH GEORGE MEANY. COMMENT: FANFANI'S
CONCERN WITH THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. HOW-
EVER, IT MUST BE TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS EARLIER REMARKS
WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT HIS POSIT
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